



## **First Responder Network Authority Weekly Update to the State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – November 23, 2015**

### **FirstNet News**

- FirstNet held a SPOC webinar on 11/18. Presentations included a FirstNet executive update, a data collection recap, and a review of the 2016 consultation program. More than 100 attendees from 48 states and territories participated.
- Last week, FirstNet also participated in the Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) Telecom Executive Policy Summit, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Emerging Technology Forum, a National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) webinar, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) California Broadband Workshop and Tribal Breakfast, the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association Conference, an Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) Membership Meeting, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference, the Big City Emergency Managers Meeting, a Miami-Dade Area Law Enforcement Meeting, the Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) National Conference, a SPOC Environmental Team Meeting in California, the Smart Spectrum Summit, the Homeland Security Dialogue Forum, the 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Command (Theater) Command Strategy Group meeting, and the LTE North America Summit.
- The Federal team continues to work with agencies to gain further clarity on their data submissions. Last week, they conducted initial consultation with the combined Department of Defense (DoD) Public Safety Communications Working Group and Emergency Managers Working Group. FirstNet CTO staff and the DoD also held a follow-up discussion on a coordinated effort focused on airborne LTE operations.
- This week, FirstNet will be participating in the New England Council for EMS Annual Conference and the Minnesota Public Safety Wireless Broadband Exercise. Additional events and details are available under the newsroom tab on our [website](#).
- The Board meetings will be in Houston on December 8-9. The agenda and webcast of the meetings will be posted on the [FirstNet website](#). The PSAC meeting will follow the board meeting on December 9-10; a portion of the December 9 meeting will be open to the public and webcast.

### **News from the PSAC, States and Territories**

- Guam recently launched its new [public safety broadband network website](#).

### **Media Watch**

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### *Traditional Media*

Media coverage this week covered a variety of topics, including the BTOP projects and FirstNet's presentations at various conferences.

### **TR Daily: Poth: FirstNet Welcomes All Partnerships**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is interested in all proposals for partnerships with the private sector, including any that would involve TV and radio broadcasters that could help provide resources in rural areas where public safety and wireless carriers might not have assets, FirstNet Chief Executive Officer Mike Poth said today. Mr. Poth spoke at the Smart Spectrum Summit, where an audience member asked if there would be opportunities for TV and radio broadcasters to partner with FirstNet. He replied that FirstNet wants to encourage a variety of proposals for constructing the network, including from players such as carriers, TV stations, and "disruptive bidders." "We're asking industry to tell us what's the best approach," he said. "We've asked industry to partner with FirstNet to solve this problem, but we're not trying to tell them how to do it, which is sometimes unusual in the federal government," he also said at today's event. Mr. Poth noted that FirstNet has posted the names of companies that are interested in partnering with other entities.

### **Urgent Communications: NTIA Still Undecided About Fate Of Public-Safety LTE Projects Funded With BTOP Money**

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/ntia-still-undecided-about-fate-public-safety-lte-projects-funded-btop-money>

Public-safety LTE projects funded with federal grants from the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) remain in limbo more than six weeks after Congress passed legislation calling for a five-year extension for awardees to utilize unspent BTOP funds through fiscal year 2020...In the San Francisco Bay area, the public-safety BTOP grant was awarded to Motorola Solutions—the lone BTOP grantee that was a vendor, instead of a government entity. However, the project was not started, because the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communications Systems Authority (BayRICS) was unable to negotiate a spectrum-lease agreement with FirstNet.

### **Radio Resource/Mission Critical: Harris County Tackles Business Model for Public Safety LTE Sustainability**

<http://www.mccmag.com/Features/FeaturesDetails/FID/615>

Harris County, Texas, has worked out a business model for financial sustainability of its public safety Long Term Evolution (LTE) network..."The challenges we are seeing will be the same challenges that FirstNet will see," said Todd Early, Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) assistant deputy director and the Texas single point of contact (SPOC). "How do users pay for devices? The industry has to get creative on how they get devices to public safety."

### **South Dakota Municipalities Magazine: November 2015**

*FirstNet: What Is It? (p.36)*

[http://www.sdmunicipalleague.org/vertical/Sites/%7B2540DC39-A742-459F-8CAF-7839ECF21E89%7D/uploads/Nov\\_15\\_Mag\\_for\\_web\\_1.pdf](http://www.sdmunicipalleague.org/vertical/Sites/%7B2540DC39-A742-459F-8CAF-7839ECF21E89%7D/uploads/Nov_15_Mag_for_web_1.pdf)

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is the independent authority overseeing development of a nationwide broadband network for first responders and public safety agencies. So, what does that mean? In a nut shell: the police, firefighters, emergency medical service professionals and other public safety officials will have their own nationwide-dedicated broadband network. The network is being designed to be interoperable in all 56 states and territories.

### **TR Daily: Rural Carrier Reps Cite Opportunities, Challenges To FirstNet Partnering**

Representatives of rural telecom service providers today cited the opportunities of partnering on the construction and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network being overseen by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), but they also identified several challenges. During a session this afternoon at the NTCA Telecom Executive Policy Summit, the rural officials said they want to partner with whichever national player wins a contract to build the network. But they also identified difficulties. FirstNet President TJ Kennedy said the authority is still on track to release its request for proposals (RFPs) by the end of next month. "There's always things that can get in the way of that," he said. "But we are holding steady." He also stressed that while FirstNet has decided to pursue a nationwide acquisition approach, its evaluation criteria require proposals to include partnerships with rural providers and the leveraging of current assets to speed deployment in rural areas. Mr. Kennedy also noted that in each phase of deployment, there will be build-out in rural areas, which he said will "require key partnerships with many of you in this room."

### *Web and Social Media*

FirstNet was active on social media this week. Twitter added more than 30 followers, which is higher than usual, and is now at 2,891 followers; LinkedIn now has 1,118 users; YouTube has 173 subscribers and Google+ remains at 58 users. This week, we posted three new blog entries including a video blog on FirstNet and NG-911. Features included [FirstNet Video Blog: FirstNet and Next Generation 911](#), [Data Collection Yields Key Info from States, Territories, Federal Agencies](#), and a recap of the initial state consultation in Michigan. All blog posts can also be accessed through <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>.